

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08342 042356Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----017896 042357Z /62

O 042309Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3951
AMEMBASSY BEIURT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8342

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, LEB
SUBJECT: FIGHTING IN BEIRUT

1. WE KNOW THAT WASHINGTON IS ALREADY DOING ALL IT CAN TO STOP THE LATEST OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING IN BEIRUT. ISRAELIS ARE AS CONCERNED AS MOST EVERYBODY ELSE. AT FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION EARLIER THIS EVENING, PRIME MINISTER, INTELLIGENCE CHIEF GAZIT, PM'S MILITARY ADVISOR PORAN AND MILGOV GENERAL ORLY CONVEYED SIMILAR CONCERNS THAT U.S. TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE VIS-A-VIS SYRIANS TO STEM HOSTILITIES. IN DESCRIBING HEAVY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REPORTED TO GOI BY CHRISTIANS, GAZIT POINTEDLY ASKED AMBASSADOR , "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?" BEGIN, WHO WAS BRIEFED ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

DURING COURSE OF RECEPTION ALSO EXPRESSED WORRY OVER TREND OF EVENTS IN BEIRUT.

2. AMBASSADOR ASSURED BEGIN AND HIS ASSOCIATES U.S. WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO CONTAIN BLOODSHED, AND REITERATED OUR HOPE THAT ISRAELIS WOULD URGE RESTRAINT ON PART OF CHRISTIANS.

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3. THERE WAS NO IMPLIED THREAT IN COURSE OF THESE CONVERSATIONS THAT

ISRAELIS INTENDED TO DIRECTLY INVOLVE THEMSELVES. BUT THEY, LIKE THE REST OF US, FEAR THAT FORCE OF LATEST SYRIAN RETALIATION AGAINST PHLANGISTS WILL LEAD TO FURTHER DISINTEGRATION OF LEBANESE STATE.
LEWIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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